

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



Newsletter of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services

January/February 2008

## Governor's Message

As we begin the new year, I believe strongly it is important our state continue to make addressing climate change a priority.

That is why I recently created by Executive Order a Climate Change Task Force and charged it with developing a Climate Action Plan for the state by September 1, 2008.

The Task Force brings together talented people from across our state, including business leaders, environ-



Governor Lynch

mental leaders, state officials, legislators and community representatives. They all share a common interest in protecting what is special about New Hampshire, but they will

bring diverse perspectives to the table. And we must get everyone at the table – Republicans and Democrats, business leaders and environmental leaders – if we want a plan that will truly result in action.

I have named Department of Environmental Services Commissioner Tom Burack to serve as chairman of this important group. I am confident Tom will bring a clear sense of focus to this working group and under his leadership, I am sure we will have a sound, innovative action plan in place for our state.

Governor, *continued on page 8*

## DES promotes shooting range BMPs *Exeter range gets the lead out*

Since the early 1900s, sportsmen have enjoyed shooting at outdoor ranges. However, the environmental challenge becomes what to do with contamination from the lead shot and bullets used at these shooting ranges. It's a problem that threatens the environment, wildlife, habitat, water quality, and in some cases, public health.



*The 40-plus years of skeet shooting in one portion of the Exeter range caused lead shot contamination to accumulate in an adjacent wetland.*

Over that last several years, DES has worked closely with range owners and their members to help them institute best management practices (BMPs) that are protective of the environment and public health. These shooting range BMPs

*Shooting Range BMPs, continued on page 2*

## Commissioner's Column

### DES launches Partners Program

Over the past 20 years, DES has developed informal partnerships with more than 200 different non-profits, trade associations, educational institutions and governmental organizations. The collective work of these organizations has been invaluable to DES, allowing us to increase our effectiveness and efficiency in accomplishing our mission.

In order to bring greater recognition and structure to these relationships, DES has initiated a Partners Program to help us build on those partnerships and enable us to better align our joint efforts in support of DES's goals and the goals of our partner organizations. The Partners' Program will help to raise environmental awareness through a strengthening of the department's current relationships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trade associations, industry, business and other organizations in New Hampshire, as well as the develop-

Commissioner, *continued on page 2*

## Shooting Range BMPs

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are drawn from the Interstate, Technology and Regulatory Council, a state-led national organization composed of environmental agencies, and the EPA.

DES recommends instituting four steps for lead management at shooting ranges: control and contain lead bullets and bullet fragments; prevent migration of lead to the subsurface and surrounding surface water bodies; remove the lead shot from the ranges and recycle it; and keep good records. Some examples of BMPs include sand and steel traps to collect spent shot, controlling runoff, hand-raking and recycling, and occasionally using lead shot alternatives, such as steel, bismuth and tin or tungsten, and iron mixtures.

Exeter's involvement with an outdoor shooting range is a unique example of the collaboration needed to solve complex environmental problems. In this case, the property is owned by the town, but the range has been independently operated by the Exeter Sportsmen's Club since the 1960s.

The 40-plus years of skeet shooting in one portion of the range caused lead shot contamination to accumulate in a wetland, thus potentially endangering the local flora and fauna. DES requested the town to develop a work plan to remediate the contamination, which DES subsequently approved. The plan included dredging over 250 cubic yards of lead contaminated sediments from the wetland. The removal of this material was extremely important given that the wetland is contiguous with the town's drinking water reservoir. Ken Berkenbush, Exeter's assistant fire chief and health officer, believes that hiring a consultant knowledgeable with DES's shooting range BMPs created a win-win situation for all. "The parties to this cleanup action gained confidence that our consultant's proposal, which is based on these BMPs, helped us meet DES's remediation objectives."

Sediment samples indicate that the lead is now well below DES standards. With the contaminated sediments removed from the wetland, the town is now focused on assessing the environmental risk of lead shot in upland areas of the range. Concurrently, the club is proceeding with various BMPs, which include the use of shot curtains to capture lead shot as it leaves the skeet range and the addition of wing walls to the pistol and rifle ranges.

The shooting range BMPs are available at [www.itrcweb.org/Documents/SMART-1.pdf](http://www.itrcweb.org/Documents/SMART-1.pdf), [www.itrcweb.org/Documents/SMART-2.pdf](http://www.itrcweb.org/Documents/SMART-2.pdf) and at [www.epa.gov/region2/waste/leadshot/](http://www.epa.gov/region2/waste/leadshot/). For more information about these BMPs for your sportsmen's club, please contact John Liptak at (603) 271-1169 or [john.liptak@des.nh.gov](mailto:john.liptak@des.nh.gov). ■

## Commissioner

*continued from page 1*

ment of new collaborative relationships.

At the annual meeting and conference of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) on November 3, Executive Director Carol Andrews and I signed the first partnership agreement. For years, DES and NHACC have worked cooperatively and in partnership on a wide range of matters, including wetlands education and permitting, aquatic resource mitigation, source water protection, designated rivers and shoreland protection.

Our second partnership agreement was signed two weeks later at the annual Watershed Conference on November 17, this time with Joshua Cline of the New Hampshire Rivers Council (NHRC). DES has collaborated with the NHRC on many efforts, including river, stream and watershed legislation, public education, aquatic resource mitigation, source water protection, and designated rivers and shoreland protection. These agreements address our common goals of environmental education and the protection of the state's natural resources.

Each Partnership Agreement consists of a work plan developed by DES and the partner that includes the specific areas of cooperation for the ensuing two to three years. The tasks are nonbinding and voluntary, and can be revised at any time by agreement of both parties.

Our Partnership Agreements will result in enhanced communication between DES and our partners, and ultimately in improved environmental protection. I invite existing and new partners to view the agreements with the NHACC and NHRC at

[www.des.nh.gov/](http://www.des.nh.gov/) to see if they would like to enter into such a partnership with DES.

For more information about the agreement or the DES Partners Program, please contact Sharon Yergeau at (603) 271-2918 or [syergeau@des.state.nh.us](mailto:syergeau@des.state.nh.us).

Tom Burack,  
*Commissioner*

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



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## Roundabouts – Not Your Typical Traffic Circle

by William Oldenburg, NH Department of Transportation

The first traffic circle in the United States was built in 1903 in New York City, the Columbus Circle. In New Hampshire, traffic circles were constructed from about the 1940s until the 1960s. They fell out of favor among traffic engineers because they depended on high speed merging of traffic and most required drivers in the circle to yield to entering traffic. As traffic volumes increased over the years, these circles clogged up with traffic and caused congestion. Today most of these older circles have been converted to require entering traffic to yield to traffic in the circle.

While traffic circles fell out of favor in the US, they were perfected in Europe. These smaller, much improved circles became what we now call the modern roundabout. While roundabouts can be used to replace any type of intersection control (yield, stop or signals), all the roundabouts the NHDOT has constructed replaced either an existing or proposed signalized intersection.

Although the main benefit of roundabouts is probably their safety record, roundabouts also have environmental benefits. Roundabouts manage traffic in a slow and steady manner, unlike a signal which stores stopped vehicles while they wait for a green light. When comparing a signalized intersection versus a roundabout intersection, the roundabout can reduce vehicle delays by as much as 50 percent over that of the signal. Since vehicles in a roundabout are not required to stop and wait for a green light, they produce less air pollution and use less gas. Roundabouts also do not consume electricity to run like signals do.



A roundabout in Nashua. Photo from [www.roundaboutsusa.com/newhamp.html](http://www.roundaboutsusa.com/newhamp.html).

Another environmental benefit of roundabouts is that they require less pavement. In a recent project study of a signalized intersection versus a roundabout intersection, the signal-

ized intersection required a pavement area 40 percent larger than that of the roundabout. This was due to the signalized intersection requiring turn lanes and storage lanes that the roundabout did not require. The reduced pavement area will result in less salt usage, less impervious area, less property impacts, and less roadway runoff.

Currently there are 14 modern roundabouts in operation in New Hampshire, four of which have been constructed by the NHDOT, with the other 10 being municipally or privately constructed.

For more information on roundabouts, contact Bill Oldenburg at (603) 271-2604 or visit the NHDOT website at [www.nh.gov/dot/projects/roundabouts/roundabouts.htm](http://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/roundabouts/roundabouts.htm). ■

## Green Slopes Workshop 2007

The Green Slopes program is having a great “season” by continuing to provide an avenue for relaying environmental initiatives at ski facilities and as a place to develop new projects. The Reducing Emissions One Engine at a Time Workshop, which focused on idling reduction campaigns and the use of biodiesel, was a great success. So far, 14 New Hampshire resorts have implemented idling reduction campaigns, which could potentially reduce emissions by 110 pounds of particulate matter, 4,018 pounds of nitrogen oxides and 282,743 pounds of carbon dioxide. In addition, six of the ski resorts are purchasing bio-fuels for snow cats, heating their facilities and fleet vehicles this season. The NH Pollution Prevention Program will be following up to determine the outcomes for each of the initiatives as time goes on.

Since the first workshop, NHPPP has been working with other programs such as SkiNH to promote the Green Slopes Project. NHPPP has also visited a few sites, attended environmental committee meetings and manned booths to promote idling reduction. For Phase II, DES is partnering with utility companies and other state programs to build a successful workshop on solid waste recycling and energy reduction.

For more information on this initiative, contact Tara Mae Goodrich at (603) 271-0878 or [nhppp@des.nh.gov](mailto:nhppp@des.nh.gov). Visit the Green Slopes website, which is being updated with new information, at [www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/greenslopes.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/greenslopes.htm). ■





## SW Community Services teams with DES on Newport redevelopment

The Meadow Road Realty Trust property was formerly Peerless Woolen Mill, a 19th century manufacturer of ladies undergarments. Fortunately, corsets and other innovations from the 1890s were short lived fashion trends; regrettably for Peerless, fashion changes caused a steep decline in sales and termination of manufacturing in the 1930s. Seventy years of warehouse use later, the prop-

erty consisted of a number of vacant, structurally deficient buildings and rubble. Southwestern Community Services (SCS) developed a plan to redevelop the property into an elderly housing complex and applied to HUD for a Section 202 grant. HUD rejected the application because contaminated properties are ineligible for Section 202 funding.



*Seventy years of warehouse use later, the property consisted of a number of vacant, structurally deficient buildings and rubble.*

At the request of SCS, DES discussed the site with HUD. After DES clarified that the property was eligible for the State's Petroleum Reimbursement Fund and agreed to expedite the environmental cleanup work, HUD accepted the grant application. HUD then awarded a \$3.37 million grant to SCS with one major catch: the site had to be cleaned up and all monitoring

wells decommissioned before SCS would obtain the money. One other detail in the fine print of the approval — the site had to be cleaned up in less than 18 months.

DES and SCS developed a plan of action. Soil contaminated from releases from two diesel underground storage tanks would be excavated and the remaining groundwater contamination would be addressed using a Matrix pure oxygen injection system. Site remediation was not without its challenges, however. Initial source area sampling failed to find the source of the onsite groundwater contamination. DES determined that the samples were collected above the smear zone and DES directed the contractor to return to the site and collect deeper samples.

The additional sampling found two

distinct source areas and DES quickly approved a soil removal project to eliminate the source of groundwater contamination. Soil contamination was discovered under the adjacent building and partial demolition of the building was added to the plan to facilitate cleanup activities. The 32-point Matrix pure oxygen injection system became operational in August 2006. The Matrix system's flexible operation became very important in January 2007, when DES recommended and subsequently approved shifting injection points to a new location where groundwater stubbornly remained above standards. By April 2007, the site was closed and all onsite groundwater monitoring and oxygen injection wells were decommissioned.

DES and Southwestern Community Services achieved site closure within the 18 month deadline and the HUD grant has been awarded. Demolition of the existing buildings is complete and the housing project is slated for completion by late summer 2008. The project will supply much needed affordable elderly housing for the town of Newport. Newport is excited about the renovation of a town eyesore and the vast improvement of a property that is in close proximity to a school and the town's recreational complex. ■

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## Looking for a Rule?

Rules that have been adopted by DES and certified through the statutory process are available on-line by going to DES's Rules page, [www.des.nh.gov/desadmin.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/desadmin.htm), and clicking on "All Rules" in the right-hand box. At the next screen, scroll down to the rule title or click on the link in the right-hand box.

Rules that DES is proposing to adopt are available by going to [www.des.nh.gov/Rulemaking/](http://www.des.nh.gov/Rulemaking/) and scrolling to the appropriate section. Rules that DES has adopted but have not yet been certified are available by going to [www.des.nh.gov/Rulemaking/#adopted](http://www.des.nh.gov/Rulemaking/#adopted) and scrolling to the appropriate section. Links to proposed and recently adopted rules also are available from the corresponding rule on the main Rules page.

Notices of rules proposed by all state agencies are published in the *New Hampshire Rulemaking Register*, which is available from the Office of Legislative Services, Division of Administrative Rules, (604) 271-3680 or on-line at [gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/index.html](http://gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/index.html). Certified rules also are available through this web site. ■

## How to handle mercury-containing CFL bulbs

Switching from traditional light bulbs to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) is an effective and simple change everyone can make right now to reduce energy use and prevent greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. However, consumers are reminded that CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – about the amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen, or about 5 milligrams. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury.

Currently, mercury is an essential component of CFLs and is what allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. Unfortunately, when released into the environment, mercury can pose a hazard to human health or harm the environment. It is important to remember that no mercury is released when the bulbs are intact or in use, so proper handling and disposal will eliminate any mercury risk from CFLs.

Be careful when removing the bulb from its packaging, installing or replacing it, as it is made of glass and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Always screw and unscrew the bulb by its base (not the glass) and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket. To further reduce risk of contamination from bulb breakage, place a drop cloth beneath the light fixture prior to changing the bulb.

If a CFL bulb should break, it is important to follow safe procedures for proper cleanup and disposal. Cleanup will depend on the specific situation and surface, but you should *never use a vacuum cleaner to clean up broken CFL pieces*. You should *isolate and ventilate the area immediately* and **call DES** for the best steps to take. When isolating the area, close doors to prevent mercury vapors from leaving and keep people and pets away from the broken material so mercury residue is not accidentally tracked to other areas. Turn off all fans, heating ventilation and air conditioning systems, and open a window (provided there is no strong breeze), leaving the room for 15 minutes or more.

Worn out bulbs should be properly recycled or disposed of using one of the following options described below. Check first to see if the bulb failed within its warranty period, as Energy Star qualified CFLs have a warranty so you may be able to return it to your point of purchase. Spent CFLs should **never** be disposed of in regular household trash. As a matter of fact, it is against the law in New Hampshire to dispose of any mercury-containing products in landfills, incinerators or transfer stations.

Spent CFLs should be recycled at local municipal recycling facilities or retail stores if at all possible. Many towns accept fluorescent bulbs, including CFLs, at their recycling/transfer facilities. Plus, DES has partnered with True Value and Ace hardware stores to accept spent fluorescent light

bulbs from consumers for free. Contact DES for information on which town facilities and/or retailers will accept CFLs for recycling, or go to [www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/Mercury/default.asp?link=recycle](http://www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/Mercury/default.asp?link=recycle).

If recycling is not an option, burned out CFLs should be taken to a household hazardous waste collection site. Check with your local municipality for scheduled household hazardous waste collection days, or visit [www.des.nh.gov/HHW/pdf/HHWcollections\\_schedule.pdf](http://www.des.nh.gov/HHW/pdf/HHWcollections_schedule.pdf).

For additional information on mercury and CFLs, contact the DES Pollution Prevention Program at (603) 271-6460, or go to [www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/Mercury/](http://www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/Mercury/). ■



Mt. Washington in winter. Photo by Heather Pike.

### Carbon monoxide is a killer

Carbon monoxide can kill you without you even seeing it, smelling it or tasting it. Each year in America, carbon monoxide poisoning claims hundreds of lives and sends thousands to the hospital. Take steps to protect yourself from these deadly fumes.

Most heating sources emit carbon monoxide. Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning furnaces, vents and chimneys at least once a year. Install at least one carbon monoxide detector within your living area.

Warning symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include: headaches, exhaustion, drowsiness, dizziness, vomiting and chest pain. If you suspect possible exposure, get fresh air immediately and call 911.

For more information, contact DES at (603) 271-3911 or [IAQ@des.nh.gov](mailto:IAQ@des.nh.gov). ■



## Concord Hospital takes environmental LEED

Concord Hospital is striving to become the first New Hampshire hospital to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification (LEED).

Concord Hospital's construction project to its east and north wing additions is attempting to do what no other hospital in the state has done thus far – be recognized by the US Green Building Council as a leader in using healthy construction materials and protecting the natural environment.

"We obtained approval from the hospital's CEO and Board to include this effort in the project and felt as an organization it was the right thing to do," said Ray Gerbi, vice president of facilities at Concord Hospital.

There are now six certified projects in the state, however, Concord Hospital has the only New Hampshire healthcare project listed on the USGBC site.

Some of the construction aspects that Concord Hospital will address include:

- Choosing non-harmful efficient construction materials.
- Reducing or eliminating toxins to improve indoor environmental quality.
- Recycling demolition waste.
- Reducing water consumption.
- Encouraging patients and visitors to use public transportation.
- Designating an area near the building as carpool space.
- Adding a healing garden that will be accessible from the second floor.

"A number of materials you end up using are actually longer lasting than conventional materials," Gerbi said. "These materials – recycled flooring,

and linoleums, for example – are as long lasting as vinyls, and rubber flooring is even longer lasting. There's definitely an economic payback using these materials. It also creates a healthier environment for patients and employees."

However, many of the outlined items listed by the council are difficult to achieve for hospitals because of patient safety and the fact that healthcare facilities are open 24-hours, seven days a week, which makes it challenging to reach certification status.

The council has an exam in which construction workers and architects can become certified LEED profession-

als. One of the criteria Concord Hospital had for the new wing additions is for the architectural company to have at least one certified LEED professional. Both the construction company Gilbane Building Company and the architect Shelpy, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott have many certified LEED professional employees. ■



*Snowy barn.* Photo by Mark Stevens

## Employee of the Year: Joanne Morin

Joanne Morin exemplifies what it means to go "above and beyond" the job description. Joanne, who is supervisor of the Air Resources Energy and Transportation Programs Unit, worked passionately over the last several years to promote and advocate for legislation requiring load-serving electric utilities in the state to meet minimum purchases of electricity from renewable sources (solar, wind, biomass, etc.), thereby reducing air pollution and climate change related emissions. Over the course of the past year, Joanne helped to secure and brief sponsors, arranged and participated in numerous hours of stakeholder sessions addressing the bill, prepared fact sheets and FAQ documents, wrote and delivered department testimony, and was generally considered the driving force behind the bill, which passed with an overwhelming bi-partisan majority. Joanne also worked diligently on other major climate and energy programs such as the state's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the Climate Registry, and participated in energy related PUC dockets.

We congratulate her for her energetic pace, dedication and passion for her work, which—in addition to an active family life, several local political and civic commitments, and local theater work—all help to make Joanne a great ambassador for DES and environmental issues. ■



*Joanne Morin being congratulated by DES Commissioner Burack.*

## DES staff recognized for service milestones

### 35 YEARS

Kenneth Warren, WD  
Blaise Heroux, WMD  
Thomas Beaulieu, WMD  
Thomas Andrews, WMD

### 30 YEARS

Robert Fay, WD

### 25 YEARS

Frank Richardson, WD

### 20 YEARS

Stephen Roberts, WD  
Gail Timmins, WD  
Kathryn Siekaniec, CO  
Dori Wiggin, WD  
Laura Langlois, CO  
Kenneth Kettenring, WMD  
Steve Doyon, WD  
Joyce Bledsoe, WMD  
Stephanie Larson, WD  
John Liptak, WMD  
Richard Brock, Sr., WD  
Nancy Perry, WD  
Thomas Fazzina, ARD

### 15 YEARS

Deborah Mayo, ARD  
Jacquie Colburn, WD  
Stephen Landry, WD

David Bowen, WMD  
Robert Tardif, WD  
Dennis Pinski, ARD  
Donna Dymont, WMD  
Julie Lockwood, WD  
Marc Trendell, WD  
Peter Beblowski, WMD  
William Nash, WD  
Kent Finemore, ARD  
Debra Libby, WMD  
Spruce Wheelock, WMD

### 10 YEARS

Theodore Diers, WD  
Daniel Dudley, WD  
Jeffrey Underhill, ARD  
Alan Leach, WD  
Darlene Forst, WD  
Gary Milbury, Jr., ARD  
Christopher Locke, WD  
Johnna McKenna, WD  
David Price, WD  
Beth Malcolm, WD  
Rachel Boisvert, CO  
David Degler, WMD  
Amy Smagula, WD  
Richard De Seve, WD  
Pamela Monroe, ARD  
Mark Ledgard, WMD  
Sharon Nall, WD  
Anthony Brown, WD  
Tammy Calligandes, WMD

## Independent evaluation of recent flooding in New Hampshire begins

About 100 people came to Concord in mid-December for the first of three public meetings concerning an independent evaluation on recent flooding events in the state. The evaluation will be performed to determine the specific causes of the floods and provide recommendations for improving water management procedures and dam operations to reduce the impacts from future flooding. The evaluation was requested by Governor Lynch following the floods that devastated Southern New Hampshire last April. The meeting in December introduced the public to the study team and provided an opportunity for the public to comment on the scope of work.

The \$330,000 study is being funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and performed by a team led by the URS Corporation, an international engineering firm under contract to FEMA. In addition, an independent panel of national experts in water resources management will oversee the entire study to ensure that the work and recommendations meet the highest level of professional independence and expertise.

As part of the study, the engineering firm will determine the causes of the flood in the Piscataquog, Souhegan, Soucook, Suncook, Contoocook, Cocheco, Lamprey, Oyster, Salmon Falls and Isinglass river basins. The team will also examine the policies, programs and mechanisms for coordination of flood control operations and notification of flood-prone areas; assess the effects of dam operations on flood conditions in the Salmon Falls, Souhegan, Piscataquog, and Suncook basins; and determine the differences between the April 2007 flood and other recent flood events in these basins, including the May 2006 flood. Based on the results of these evaluations, the team will provide recommendations for any remedial, protective or management measures that would help mitigate the effects of future flooding.

As the evaluation proceeds, two additional public meetings will be held: one in mid-March 2008 to present the interim findings of the factors contributing to the April 2007 flood, and the other in May 2008 to present the final results of the evaluation.

For more information, please contact Jim Gallagher, DES Dam Bureau, at (603) 271-1961. ■



Commissioner Burack (left), presented special "Commissioner Awards" to three bureaus for their outstanding teamwork during the past year. With their awards are Collis Adams, Wetlands Bureau; Jim Gallagher, Dam Bureau; and Gary Lynn and Jennifer Marts, Oil Remediation and Compliance Bureau.

[www.nh.gov/climate/](http://www.nh.gov/climate/)  
for New Hampshire's global  
climate change efforts

## Governor

*continued from page 1*

As the Task Force does its work, we will continue moving forward on another important front.

As I stated in the previous newsletter, I will be working this year to pass legislation to implement the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in New Hampshire. The Task Force can help the state as we move forward with this important initiative.

RGGI uses a flexible market-based program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-burning plants. The states who have committed to RGGI have agreed to set state-wide caps on emissions from power plants.

Nine other states in the region are already committed to moving forward with RGGI. We will be affected by RGGI whether or not we participate in the effort. The policies established by the initiative will impact us here in New Hampshire. If we fail to pass this legislation, surrounding states will end up dictating what will happen to the regional power market and leaving New Hampshire behind.

In addition, RGGI could very well end up being the basis for a national energy policy when one comes. Already, the Western states are adopting their own version of RGGI, and Mid-western states are looking in a similar direction.

By joining RGGI, we will be making a smart investment in our environment and our energy future, and we will make sure New Hampshire continues to have a say in its own energy future.

In the coming year, I look forward to continue working with lawmakers and the Department of Environmental Services to help ensure we continue to lead nationally on the issue of climate change and other issues.

John Lynch, *Governor*

## January is National Radon Awareness Month!

Radon is a tasteless, colorless and odorless radioactive gas. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil and rocks. Radon can get into the air you breathe and into your drinking water. Radon awareness is particularly important to New Hampshire residents because the "Granite State" has higher-than-average radon exposure potential. About 25 percent of New Hampshire homes have radon levels above EPA's recommended action level.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer behind cigarette smoking. In New Hampshire, radon causes more than 100 lung cancer deaths per year. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

Testing for radon is inexpensive. It can only be detected in your home through testing.

For more information on testing for radon in your air or water, contact the NH Department of Environmental Services at (603) 271-6845 or visit [www.des.nh.gov/ARD/EHP/Radon/](http://www.des.nh.gov/ARD/EHP/Radon/). ■

## NH's Environmental Leadership Initiative *Go beyond the minimum! Be a leader!*

The first tier of DES's Environmental Leadership initiative, the *Aspiring Leaders Program*, was launched in December.

Aspiring Leaders is for anyone, but especially for small businesses and other organizations, like municipal agencies, that want to do better but may need some help and encouragement to get there.



Organizations may become members of Aspiring Leaders if, to the best of their knowledge, they do not have any current unresolved environmental, health or safety administrative or criminal enforcement actions against them.

For more information, please contact Bob Minicucci at (603) 271-2941. ■



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